



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
April 29, 2009

GROUP MEETS TO DISCUSS WELLHEAD PROTECTION

In a state where 85% of residents drink groundwater, wellhead protection is a continuous "hot topic." Since 2001, The Groundwater Foundation has facilitated the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network (WHPN), which provides an opportunity for agency personnel that support community wellhead protection programs to meet, discuss their work, identify community needs, and gain information related to wellhead protection.

The WHPN generally meets on a quarterly basis. Recent meetings include a session held in Kearney, Nebraska to discuss climate variability. Brian Fuchs, a Climatologist with the National Drought Mitigation Center, presented information on climate change, including drought and the effects it has on Nebraska. Another recent meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska featured Robert Swanson, Director of the US Geological Survey Nebraska Water Science Center, who gave an overview of resources and data available through the USGS website, and of projects currently being done in Nebraska to help provide better geological maps and groundwater data for the future.

In addition, the WHPN hosted a week-long education and awareness event at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln. WHPN members set up displays at the Capitol featuring specific activities related to wellhead protection and overall agency/organization activities and goals to educate those visiting or working in the Capitol about wellhead protection. The wellhead protection education and awareness week concluded with a special event hosted by the Nebraska WHPN for Nebraska State Senators and staff members. Senators and staff members were invited to attend a breakfast at the Capitol to learn more about Nebraska's groundwater and programs, projects, or other work being done related to wellhead protection.

The WHPN is supported by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Over 250 members representing state and local environmental, natural resource, and public health agencies and organizations as well as community municipalities and utilities are members of the Network. For more information, visit <http://www.groundwater.org/pe/newhp.html>.

###

The Groundwater Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska with a mission to educate and motivate the public to care about and for groundwater. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has offered various educational programming for youth and adults. To learn more, visit www.groundwater.org.